

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 /077 W

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R 041242Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6070

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0718

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, MP, SF, AS, OAU

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS SERVICE RESUMES

1. SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS RESUMED SERVICE TO MAURITIUS JULY 31 WITH A SPECIAL FLIGHT OF ITS RUN BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA. NORMAL STOPS AT PLAISANCE AIRPORT ARE ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS ON THE WAY TO AUSTRALIA AND ON THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS IN THE DIRECTION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

2. COMMENT: THIS SERVICE WAS SUSPENDED DURING THE MONTH OF JULY OWING TO A BOYCOTT BY AUSTRALIAN AIRPORT WORKERS PROTESTING THE SOWETO

KILLINGS. THE SUSPENSION WAS IN A WAY FORTUNATE FOR THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT, COMING AS IT DID DURING THE OAU CONFERENCE HERE, AT WHICH THERE WERE EFFORTS TO MOUNT A GENERAL BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA BY ALL AFRICAN STATES AND SPECIFIC CRITICISM WAS LEVELLED AT COUNTRIES PERMITTING OVERFLIGHTS AND LANDINGS OF SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AIRCRAFT. BECAUSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN BOYCOTT MAURITIUS WAS NOT PLACED IN A DIFFICULT POSITION VIS-A-VIS ITS FELLOW-MEMBERS OF THE OAU. REGULAR LANDINGS AT PLAISANCE BY SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT DURING THE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE MADE MAURITIUS' TRADE LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA HIGHLY VISIB

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TO ALL THE VISITORS. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GOM INTENDS TO MAINTAIN BUSINESS AS USUAL WITH SOUTH AFRICA NOW THAT THE OAU CONFERENCE HAS DEPARTED. THIS SITUATION WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO HOLD SO LONG AS A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF OAU MEMBERS MAINTAIN THEIR LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. END COMMENT.

3. ACCORDING TO QANTAS REP MAURITIUS, QANTAS WAS ABLE TO HANDLE ALL PASSENGER TRAFFIC BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WITH ITS REGULAR FLIGHTS AND BENEFITTED FROM BOYCOTT BY FILLING ITS PLANES. SOUTH AFRICAN TOURIST ARRIVALS IN MAURITIUS FELL SHARPLY AT BEGINNING OF JULY, AS GOM HAD REQUISITIONED ALL HOTEL SPACE FOR OAU CONFERENCE, BUT HAVE NOW RETURNED TO NORMAL LEVEL, HE SAID. KEELEY

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